Chapter 20
Mainstream Vouchers

Introduction

Mainstream Vouchers

Mainstream Vouchers are available for HCV eligible applicants who are: non-elderly persons (at least 18 years of age and not yet 62 years of age) with disabilities who meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings; 2) at serious risk of institutionalization; 3) homeless; or 4) previously experienced homelessness and currently in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. The target beneficiaries or voucher recipients for these vouchers are any household that includes one or more non-elderly person with disabilities.

A. Household Eligibility and Selection (Waiting List Update)

1) Letters will be sent out to all non-elderly disabled applicants on the current HCV tenant based waiting list to identify if there are any household members who are non-elderly persons with disabilities to determine if the household qualifies for the new preference.

   a) transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings ___4___pts

   b) at serious risk of institutionalization ___1___pts

   c) homeless ___2___pts

   d) Norwalk resident previously experience homelessness and currently in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing ___3___pts

2) The waiting list order based on new information on preferences will be updated using time, date and preference points.

3) NHA will pull applicants from the waiting list, beginning with the first mainstream eligible applicant on the HCV tenant based waiting list. When a Mainstream Voucher becomes available, NHA will determine if the applicant at the top of the waiting list would qualify for the voucher.

4) There is no special authority to treat applicants that receive a Mainstream Voucher differently from other applicants and participants in the HCV program. NHA waitlist procedures will be followed when utilizing Mainstream Vouchers.

5) NHA will maintain one waiting list for all tenant based assistance, which includes Mainstream Voucher assistance. When issuing a Mainstream Voucher, NHA will choose the first Mainstream eligible applicant from it’s tenant based waiting list.
B. **Participants Do Not Age Out**

Existing families utilizing Mainstream Vouchers, where the eligible family member is now 62 or older will not age out of the Mainstream Voucher program as long as the family was eligible on the day it was first assisted under a HAP contract.

C. **Reissuance of Mainstream Vouchers**

All Mainstream turnover Vouchers will be reissued to the next mainstream eligible applicant on NHA’s Tenant Based Voucher Waitlist. Turnover occurs when a recipient receiving Mainstream Voucher assistance leaves the program.

D. **Opening the NHA Waiting List for a Limited Preference**

Should applicants on the NHA tenant based HCV waiting list not meet the criteria for Mainstream Vouchers, NHA will open its waitlist solely for 150 applications that meet the preference for targeted subgroups identified in the Mainstream Notice of Funding Application (NOFA). NHA will provide public notice that it is opening its waiting list specifically for non-elderly persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, previously experienced homelessness and currently in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. NHA will comply with 24 CFR.982.206 when opening the waitlist including providing public notice and accepting applications from families for whom the list is open.

E. **Income Eligibility**

NHA must determine income eligibility for Mainstream applicants in accordance with 24 CFR 982.201. Applicants whose annual income exceeds the applicable income limit will be denied admission.

F. **Initial Term of the Voucher**

Mainstream vouchers are issued with an initial minimum search term of 120 days. Extension, suspensions, and progress reports will remain under the policies in NHA’s Administrative Plan, but will apply after the minimum 120-day initial search term.

G. **Initial Lease Term**

Under the HCV program, voucher participants must enter into an initial lease with the owner for at least one year.

H. **Portability of Mainstream Vouchers**

If a Mainstream Voucher participant ports to another PHA and the receiving PHA chooses to bill NHA then the voucher will remain a Mainstream Voucher. If the PHA chooses to absorb the

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1 See Administration Plan Chapter 5, Part II
voucher, the voucher will be considered a regular voucher, or a Mainstream Voucher if the receiving PHA has a Mainstream Voucher available. The Mainstream Voucher at NHA will be freed up to lease to another Mainstream eligible applicant.

I. **Denial of Assistance**

Denial of assistance is in accordance with Chapter 3, Part III.

J. **Family Obligations**

Once the applicant becomes a participant, the participant must follow all NHA rules including the Family Obligations in Chapter 5, Part I.